

Town of Hawley, Massachusetts
Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting – November 10, 2015

Present: John Sears, Phil Keenan, Bob Maclean – Board
Virginia Gabert – Administrative Assistant
Pam Shrimpton, Hussain Hamdan, Richie Gould, Greg Cox, Chris Tirone

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

1. Review and signing of treasury warrant – warrant 2016-11 (for the storm damage loan payoff) was reviewed and approved.
2. Review of prior meeting minutes – Minutes from October 6 were reviewed and approved. Minutes from October 20 and November 3 were not ready yet.
3. Discuss storm preparation/emergency management (1 ½ hours)
 - a. Discuss preparation meetings and emergency communications – Greg explained that the current version of the Town's emergency response plan states that when possible they will hold a planning meeting in advance – which can be posted as an emergency meeting. Big changes since TS Irene include the addition of the BlackBoard Connect emergency notification system. The Town has also improved knowledge on responding appropriately to emergencies. The 72 hour rule allows emergency response without bidding for the first 72 working hours after an emergency. This allows time to start listing projects and going out to bid as needed for permanent repairs. Also discussed the idea of pre-bidding for tree work, debris removal, equipment with operator, on-site supervisor, etc. Richie will work on compiling a list of contractors to ask as well as a list of equipment to bid. Discussion ensued about the potential fragility of reliance on landline communication, and the potential for shortwave radio as backup. John asked Hussain to look into shortwave operators in the area.
 - b. Discuss possibilities of bidding emergency highway supplies and equipment or joining FRCOG for county bid – comparing bid results from last year showed this to not be a feasible consideration.
4. Finalize warrant for December 3 Special Town Meeting – Warrant will be modified to delete the article about the bidding program, reprinted and signed right after this meeting.
5. Hear report on Planning Board items – no one present from the Planning Board.
6. Hear report on recently approved grants – Hawley was awarded the technical assistance grant for high speed internet access. The HMPG and MassWorks grants will fully fund the garage bank stabilization project.
7. Any other business not reasonably anticipated prior to posting agenda
 - a) Greg reported that the National Guard will be holding an exercise in the potato fields on November 21 including helicopters and infantry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Gabert, Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted by Board of Selectmen:

John Sears

Philip Keenan

Robert MacLean